



March 15, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: All National Indian Gaming Commission Employees

From: Paxton Myers, Chief of Staff *PM*
Larry Roberts, General Counsel *LR/ly ml*

Title: NIGC is open in case of a federal government shutdown

As most of you may have already heard, Congress is debating whether to extend the continuing resolution under which the federal government is currently operating. The current continuing resolution expires at 11:59 pm on Friday, March 18, 2011. If Congress does not act before then, a majority of federal agencies will not have the funds to continue their operations, resulting in what is familiarly known as a "government shutdown." In such a case, most non-essential federal government employees will be temporarily furloughed, which means that they will be sent home without pay because there will be no funds to pay them. The NIGC, however, will remain open. All NIGC employees who are not on approved leave will be expected to show up for work as scheduled and will be paid.

The NIGC is funded by fees paid by gaming tribes, not by an annual appropriation from Congress. Under IGRA, our fees "remain available until expended." They do not need annual reauthorization from Congress and are not affected by the current continuing resolution. Thus, in case of a government shutdown, NIGC employees will continue to work and receive their pay and benefits, although there may be a slight delay in payment. The NIGC relies on the Department of the Interior's National Business Center to process its payroll, and in case of a government shutdown, NBC employees may be temporarily furloughed. Despite this possible inconvenience, NIGC employees will be expected to show up for work.

If you have any questions, please contact the Chief of Staff or the General Counsel.